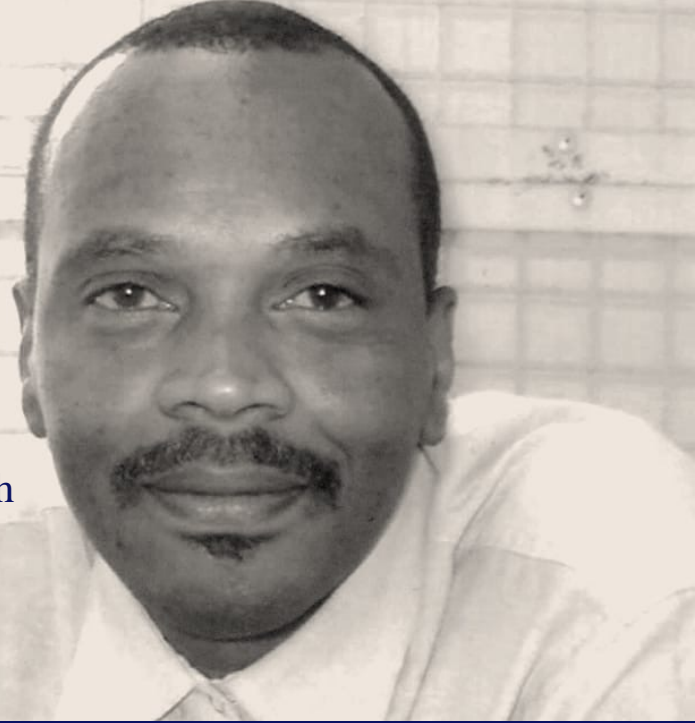


JARVIS JAY MASTERS: AN INNOCENT MAN ON DEATH ROW

Jarvis Jay Masters has been on California's death row for 32 years – an innocent man wrongfully convicted due to prosecutorial misconduct, questionable evidence, and false testimony.



THE FACTS OF THE CASE

- **A prison guard was murdered in 1985.** Three men were convicted. The man who ordered the killing and the man who committed the murder both received life in prison. Meanwhile, **Jarvis received the death sentence** for allegedly fashioning the murder weapon, something he did not do.
- **A man who matched the primary eyewitness description confessed** to the alleged role Jarvis played in the crime, but Jarvis was not provided this confession and thus could not present this evidence to the jury at his trial.
- Jarvis appealed his conviction and sentence multiple times. His direct appeal took 15 years to be decided by the California Supreme Court. The Court ultimately denied Jarvis' appeal in 2016, despite finding new evidence which put the verdict in question. The prosecution's three key witnesses—**all of whom were also involved in the murder—later admitted they testified against Masters in exchange for leniency in their cases and recanted their testimonies.**
- The man who murdered the guard provided a sworn statement that **Jarvis was not involved.**
- In fact, **every witness with firsthand knowledge about the plan to kill the officer now admits that Masters was not involved.**
- At an evidentiary hearing in 2011, **a California judge acknowledged that false testimony was likely presented at Jarvis' original trial.** Yet, the judge dismissed the witness recantations, arguing they lacked credibility. **These witnesses were deemed credible enough for the Court to sentence Jarvis to death in 1990, but not enough to exonerate him during his appeal to the California Supreme Court.**

After decades of delayed justice, Jarvis appealed to the federal courts—filing a federal habeas petition in November of 2020. A hearing is scheduled for late October 2022.

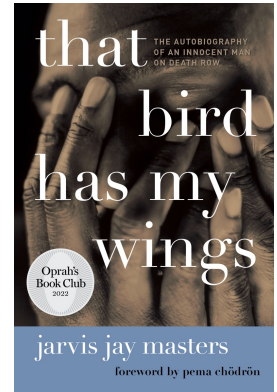
USING HIS VOICE TO SPEAK TO THE WORLD

Jarvis has been stripped of a lifetime of freedom and opportunity and yet has still found a way to harness his voice and speak to the world.

Jarvis has devoted himself to Buddhism and his spiritual practice compelled him to channel his challenging experiences into uplifting others.

Jarvis became an internationally published author from behind bars with one of his two books—*That Bird Has My Wings*—recently becoming an **Oprah’s Book Club pick for September 2022**. Jarvis has also authored *Finding Freedom: How Death Row Broke & Opened My Heart* along with numerous poems, short stories, and op-eds.

Jarvis has corresponded with thousands of people in the outside world over the past 32 years and is among the most visited prisoners on California’s death row. Jarvis sits on the spiritual advisory council of the Human Kindness Foundation, participated in the Black Buddhist Summit, collaborated with the Truthworker Theatre Company to engage young performers, and recently consulted for the Compassion Prison Project to advocate for more trauma-informed prison communities.



[Learn](#) how you can [get involved](#) to help get #JusticeforJarvis.



THIS IS ONE MAN’S STORY, BUT THIS IS NOT THE STORY OF ONE MAN.

<p>4% of people on death row in the U.S. are innocent.³</p>	<p>230,000 presumed innocent men and women are behind bars in the U.S.¹</p>	<p>5 prisoners have been released from San Quentin’s death row after being found innocent, one as recent as April 2018²</p>	<p>Black Americans are disproportionately sentenced with the death penalty: They account for 41% of prisoners on death row nationally and 36% in California, despite comprising 13.6% of the U.S. population and 6% in California²</p>
<p>An estimated 28 individuals on California’s death row are likely innocent and Jarvis is one of them.²</p>	<p>3,237 exonerations since 1989 in the U.S.¹</p>		

¹ The National Registry of Exonerations

² Death Penalty Information Center and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

³ The National Academy of Sciences